NEWS RELEASE

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

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Judicial Council Releases Annual *Court Statistics Report*

More than 9.5 million cases filed in trial courts; civil cases increase, while criminal filings decline

San Francisco—Strong growth in civil filings and a modest decline in criminal filings resulted in a net increase of 1 percent in the total number of filings in California superior courts last year, according to the Judicial Council's *2009 Court Statistics Report (CSR)*. The growth in civil filings reverses a trend of declining civil filings since fiscal year 2000–2001.

The *CSR* provides detailed statewide caseload data for **fiscal year 2007–2008** and 10-year trend data on a wide range of court business in the Supreme Court of California, the Courts of Appeal, and the superior courts in the state's 58 counties. Comprehensive county-level data for the most recent fiscal year are published in the online version of the report, along with a summary of the major filings trends, on the California Courts Web site at *www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/3_stats.htm*.

Article VI, section 6 of the California Constitution requires the Judicial Council to survey the condition of business in the state courts and to report and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. A snapshot of the court caseload data in the *CSR* follows.

Supreme Court*
- The Supreme Court issued 116 written opinions in fiscal year 2007–2008.

- Filings totaled 10,521, and dispositions totaled 10,440.

- Automatic appeals arising out of judgments of death totaled 17 cases, and dispositions of automatic appeals numbered 26.

- The Supreme Court ordered 14 Court of Appeal opinions depublished.

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Courts of Appeal

- Filings for the state's six Courts of Appeal totaled 25,199 (15,494 notices of appeal and 9,705 original proceedings).

- Dispositions in the Courts of Appeal totaled 26,004. Of these, 16,098 were appeals and 9,906 were original proceedings.

- Dispositions of appeals by written opinion totaled 11,191, and appeals disposed without written opinion totaled 4,907. Dispositions of original proceedings by written opinion totaled 631, and original proceedings disposed without written opinion totaled 9,275.

- Statewide, 9 percent of Court of Appeal majority opinions were published.

Superior Courts

Superior court case filings across all case categories totaled 9,552,781, and dispositions totaled 7,957,969. Within these aggregate numbers, the following totals were recorded:

- Civil filings totaled 1,581,117, and civil dispositions totaled 1,278,753.

- Criminal filings totaled 7,793,181, and criminal dispositions totaled 6,522,402.

- Juvenile filings totaled 148,920, and juvenile dispositions totaled 128,650.

- Family filings totaled 443,531, and family dispositions totaled 341,294.

For a descriptive analysis of trial court caseload contained in this year's CSR, please see DataPoints, online *www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/datapoints09.pdf* .

* Since 1996, the California Supreme Court has issued workload statistics using a reporting period of September 1 through August 31 of the following year. This time frame best corresponds to the filing of the Supreme Court's opinions. To view the court's September 1, 2008–August 31, 2009 annual statistics, please see www.courtinfo.ca.gov/presscenter/newsreleases/NR49-09.PDF.

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.